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IN THE CLAIMS

1-5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Currently amended) A sheet definition data managing apparatus according to ~~claim 5,~~ claim 10,

wherein the sheet ~~management table~~ definition data managing server stores information of sheet definition data supplied being charged, sheet information data supplied free, and sheet information data still not supplied, and a charge is claimed to the external by referring to the information.

7.   (Currently amended) A sheet definition data managing apparatus according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 10,

wherein the external connected to the apparatus has a plurality of sheet recognizing apparatus for recognizing each sheet, and said charge managing server has a first table for storing the number of use times by each of said sheet recognizing apparatus and a second table for managing a charge amount to be claimed to each of said sheet recognizing apparatus, and checks the number of use times and a claimed

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date of the sheet definition data for each of said sheet

recognizing apparatus by referring to the first and second

tables.

8.   (Canceled).

9.   (Currently amended)   A sheet definition data managing

apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ <u>claim 10,</u>

wherein the external connected to the apparatus has a

plurality of sheet recognizing apparatus for recognizing each

sheet, and said charge managing server has a first table for

storing the number of use times by each of said sheet

recognizing apparatus and a second table for managing a charge

amount to be claimed to each of said sheet recognizing

apparatus, collects the numbers of use times of the sheet

definition data from said sheet recognizing apparatus at a

desired date and time to write the numbers of use times in the

first table, calculates a use ~~charges~~ <u>charge</u> of each of said

sheet recognizing apparatus by referring to the first table to

write the calculation results in the second table, claims the

use charge to each of said sheet recognizing apparatus by

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referring to the second table, and when each of said sheet

recognizing apparatus pays the claimed use charge, writes a

flag indicating the payment in the second table.

　　　　10.　(Currently amended)　A sheet definition data

managing apparatus, comprising: ~~according to claim 1,~~

　　　　a sheet defining terminal for generating sheet definition

data for defining characteristics of various sheets;

　　　　a sheet definition data managing server for storing and

managing the sheet definition data; and

　　　　a charge managing server for managing the number of use

times each time each of the various sheets is recognized by

using the sheet definition data,

　　　　wherein charge information stored in said charge managing

server is collected from an external via a network, a charge

to be claimed is calculated from the collected charge

information, and the calculated use charge is claimed for the

external; and

　　　　wherein when image data of a sheet acquired from the

sheet definition data is recognized and if the image data is

recognizable, a count of the number of use times is

incremented, whereas if the image data is unrecognizable, the

unrecognizable image data of the sheet is stored.

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11.   (Canceled).

12.   (Original)   A sheet recognizing apparatus
comprising:

image acquiring means for acquiring image data of a
sheet;

a sheet definition database for storing sheet definition
data defining characteristics of the sheet; and

a sheet image processing terminal for recognizing the
image data of the sheet acquired by said image acquiring means
by referring to the sheet definition data stored in said sheet
definition database,

wherein said sheet image processing terminal reads the
sheet definition data corresponding to the image data of the
sheet acquired by said image acquiring means from said sheet
definition database to execute a recognizing process, if the
image data is recognizable, displays a result of the
recognizing process, whereas if the image data is
unrecognizable, reports the unrecognizable image data of the
sheet to an external, stores new sheet definition data
obtained from the external in response to the report in said
sheet definition database, and recognizes the unrecognizable

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image data of the sheet by referring to the new sheet

definition data stored in said sheet definition database.

13. (Original) A sheet recognizing apparatus according

to claim 12, wherein the sheet definition data stored in said

sheet definition database includes layout definition data for

distinguishing between types of sheets and format definition

data for identifying a field in each sheet.

14. (Original) A sheet recognizing apparatus according

to claim 12, wherein the recognizing process includes a

process of judging whether the image data can be recognized by

using the sheet definition data stored in said sheet

definition database, and the apparatus further comprises an

unrecognizable image file for storing unrecognizable image

data of a file.

15. (Original) A sheet recognizing apparatus according

to claim 12, further comprising a charge table for storing the

number of use times each time the sheet definition data stored

in said sheet definition database is used.

16. (Original) A sheet recognizing apparatus according

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to claim 15, wherein the number of use times stored in said

charge table is reported to the external, and a use charge of

the sheet definition data corresponding to the number of use

times and claimed from the external is paid to the external.

17.   (Original)   A sheet recognizing apparatus according

to claim 15, wherein the external connected to the apparatus

includes a sheet definition data managing apparatus for

generating and managing the sheet definition data stored in

said sheet definition database.

18-20.   (Canceled).

21.   (Currently amended)   A managing apparatus,

comprising: according to claim 18, further comprising

a managing server for defining a characteristic field of

a sheet and storing and managing sheet definition data

necessary for recognizing the sheet;

a charge server for storing and managing information on a

charge of the sheet definition data, and

a plurality of sheet recognizing apparatus, connected to

said managing server, for recognizing each sheet,

wherein said charge server claims a charge each time said

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managing server supplies the sheet definition data; and

 wherein said charge managing server has a first table for storing the number of use times by each of said sheet recognizing apparatus and a second table for managing a charge amount to be claimed to each of said sheet recognizing apparatus, and checks the number of use times and a claimed date of the sheet definition data for each of said sheet recognizing apparatus by referring to the first and second tables.

 22. (Canceled).

 23. (Currently amended) A managing apparatus according to ~~claim 18~~ claim 21, ~~further comprising~~

 ~~a plurality of sheet recognizing apparatus, connected to said managing server, for recognizing each sheet,~~

 wherein said charge managing server ~~has a first table for storing the number of use times by each of said sheet recognizing apparatus and a second table for managing a charge amount to be claimed to each of said sheet recognizing apparatus,~~ collects the numbers of use times of the sheet definition data from said sheet recognizing apparatus at a desired date and time to write the numbers of use times in the

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first table, calculates a use charge for each of said sheet

recognizing apparatus by referring to the first table to write

the calculation results in the second table, claims the use

charge for each of said sheet recognizing apparatus by

referring to the second table, and when each of said sheet

recognizing apparatus pays the claimed use charge, writes a

flag indicating the payment in the second table.

24-26.   (Canceled).

27.   (Original) A sheet charging method for charging to

an execution of sheet recognition, the method comprising the

steps of:

generating sheet definition data representative of

characteristics of a sheet and configuring a sheet definition

database;

making a contract to use the sheet definition data

between a sheet definition data managing apparatus for

managing the sheet definition data and a sheet recognizing

apparatus for recognizing the sheet by using the sheet

definition data;

making the sheet definition data managing apparatus

configure the sheet definition data satisfying requirements of

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the sheet recognizing apparatus and transmit the configured

sheet definition data to the sheet recognizing apparatus;

making the sheet recognizing apparatus recognize acquired

image data of the sheet by using the received sheet definition

data and store charge information corresponding to the number

of use times of the sheet definition data;

making the sheet definition data managing apparatus

acquire the charge information from the sheet recognizing

apparatus and sum up the acquired charge information, and

claim a use charge to the sheet recognizing apparatus in

accordance with a summed-up result; and

making the sheet recognizing apparatus pay the claimed

use charge to the sheet definition data managing apparatus.

28. (Original) A sheet charging method according to

claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

storing image data unable to be recognized by the sheet

recognizing apparatus even by using the sheet definition data;

and

making the sheet definition data managing apparatus read

the unrecognizable sheet image data from the sheet recognizing

apparatus and supplement or update the sheet definition data

generated by using the read image data.

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29-33.   (Canceled).

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